

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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VIENNA FOR RPO/HOLBERT; USIA FOR IBS/POLISH SERVICE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, PL
SUBJECT: FALSTAFF PREMIERE

REF: VIENNA 0954

1. ON FEBRUARY 6, VERDI'S ROBUST, SYBARITIC FALSTAFF OCCUPIED WITH GUSTO A PERMANENT PLACE IN THE REPERTORY OF THE TEATR WIELKI OPERA COMPANY IN WARSAW. WITH REPEATED CURTAIN CALLS AND A SHOWER OF FLOWER BOUQUETS, THE CAPACITY AUDIENCE AT THE PREMIERE PERFORMANCE SIGNIFIED ITS APPROVAL OF THE FIRST AMERICAN-PRODUCED OPERA IN POLAND. METROPOLITAN OPERA STAR REGINA RESNIK DIRECTED THE WARSAW COMPANY AS WELL AS SINGING THE ROLE OF "MISTRESS QUICKLY".

2. IN A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ON FEBRUARY 7, "EXPRESS WIECZORNY" CALLED THE "FALSTAFF" PREMIERE A "WYDARZENIE NA WYSOKIM POZIOMIE ARTYSTYCZNYM". THE WARSAW DAILY OBSERVED "OCZEKIEWANE Z DUZYM ZAINTEROSOWANIEM PRZEDSTAWIENIE, ZREALIZOWANE PRZEZ MIEDZY-NARODOWA OBSADE, NIE BYLO PRZEREKLAMOWANE. MIEDZYNARODOWA BYLA ROWNIEZ PUBLICZNOSZ NA WIDOWNI, BO OPRO CZ PRZEDSTAWICIELI KORPUSU DYPLMATYCZNEGO, BAWIACY PRZEJAZDEM W WARSZAWIE". THE "EXPRESS WIECZORNY" CRITIC ADDED, "MIMO ZE SPEKTAKL SPIEWANY BYL PO WLOSKU, PUBLICZNOSZ BEZ TRUDNOSCI CHWYTLA KOMIZM INTRYGI I SYTUACJI TEJ OPERY".

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3. STARRING IN THE TITLE ROLE FOR THE WARSAW PREMIERE WAS THE BRITISH BARITONE, SIR GERAINT EVANS, CONSIDERED BY MISS RESNIK AS "THE GREATEST FALSTAFF OF OUR TIME." MISS RESNIK, WHO PUT THE PRODUCTION TOGETHER IN A GRUELING THIRTY-TWO DAY SCHEDULE OF PLANNING AND REHEARSALS, REMARKED THAT "THERE ARE THREE LANGUAGES IN THE WORLD THAT ARE UNIVERSAL--THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE, THE LANGUAGE OF ROAD SIGNS AND THE LANGUAGE OF MUSIC. ONCE YOU BEGIN TO MAKE MUSIC," THE AMERICAN SOPRANO DECLARED", YOU CAN PUT EVERYONE IN A ROOM AND, WHILE NOBODY WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK ONE WORD TOGETHER, THEY CAN ALL SING TOGETHER." THAT MAGICAL BLEND OF INTERNATIONAL MUSIC TALENT AND DEDICATION WAS NEVER MORE EVIDENT THAN IN THE FEBRUARY 6 "FALSTAFF" PREMIERE IN WARSAW.

4. MISS RESNIK'S PRODUCTION WAS FURTHER ENRICHED BY THE IMAGINATIVE SET AND COSTUME DESIGN OF ANOTHER AMERICAN, ARBIT BLATAS. THE PERFORMANCE WAS CONDUCTED BY KAZIMERZ KORD.

5. FOR RPO: EXPRESS ARTICLE WILL BE ONLY PRESS REACTION BEFORE YOUR FEBRUARY 10 DEADLINE. ALSO PLEASE PASS TO ERNIE REED. DAVIES

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